

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: CHECK SCANDAL AND EDUCATION POLICY BEDEVIL CONGRESS

REF: BA 5950, BA 5587

1. THE CHECK SCANDAL (REFTELS), WHICH PERONISTS HOPED WOULD BLOW OVER WHILE PUBLIC ATTENTION WAS DIVERTED BY RECENT MILITARY CRISIS AND LUDER'S ASSUMPTION OF PRESIDENCY, CONTINUES TO BEDEVIL PERONIST BLOC IN LOWER HOUSE. REGULARLY SCHEDULED SESSION SEPTEMBER 17 HAD TO BE CANCELLED WHEN LARGE NUMBERS OF FREJULI BLOC MEMBERS FAILED TO ANSWER QUORUM CALL. THEY WERE IN THE CONGRESS BUILDING BUT DECLINED TO ENTER CHAMBER FEARING UCR, AS PROMISED, WOULD DEMAND EXPLANATION FOR CHECK MRS. PERON WROTE ON THE ACCOUNT OF PRIVATE PERONIST PARTY WELFARE ORGANIZATION.

2. FOLLOWING FAILURE TO ACHIEVE QUORUM, PERONIST MEMBERS CAUCUSED OFF FLOOR AND WERE TOLD BY BLOC LEADER PEDRINI THAT EXECUTIVE HAD YET TO PROVIDE PERONIST LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS WITH PROMISED SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION ON CHECK ISSUE. AS PERONISTS HAVE NOW POSTPONED PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF ISSUE SEVERAL TIMES BY PREVENTING LOWER CHAMBER FROM OBTAINING QUORUM, INACTIVITY OF CONGRESS, WHICH HAS SEVERAL MAJOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES PENDING BEFORE IT, IS ITSELF ADDING TO PARTY'S

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ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT.

3. PRESIDENT OF LOWER CHAMBER SANCHEZ TORANZO, IN ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT SOME OF CRITICISM FROM ABSENTEEISM ISSUE, HAS THREATENED TO WITHHOLD PAY FROM THOSE MEMBERS WHO DO NOT SHOW UP FOR SCHEDULED CONGRESSIONAL SESSIONS. THIS TRANSPARENT PLOY ON HIS PART WILL FOOL NO ONE AS PRESS HAS UNDERLINED FACT THAT IT IS THE PERONISTS THEMSELVES AND NOT THE MEMBERSHIP OF HOUSE IN GENERAL WHO ARE PREVENTING QUORUM.

4. A SECONDARY MOTIVE FOR PERONISTS' BOYCOTTING SEPT 17 SESSION WAS FEAR THAT UCR WOULD CALL FOR INTERPOLATION OF NEW EDUCATION MINISTER PEDRO ARRIGHI. ARRIGHI, WHO IN RECENT PUBLIC ADDRESS CRITICIZED 1918 UNIVERSITY REFORM (WHICH IS "HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT" CLOSEST TO RADICALES' HEART), FURTHER INFURIATED OPPOSITION BY STATING HE WOULD NOT IMPLEMENT TERMS OF UNIVERSITY LAW PASSED 1974. SEVERAL PERONIST DEPUTIES AT CONGRESS TOLD NEWSMEN ON OFF-RECORD BASIS THAT THEY ARE EXPECTING ARRIGHI TO BE REPLACED VERY SHORTLY AND HOPED THAT BY NOT HOLDING SESSION FOR DAY OR TWO ISSUE OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH LAW AND ARRIGHI HIMSELF WOULD JUST "GO AWAY."

5. COMMENT: PERONIST STRATEGY IN CHAMBER WITH RESPECT TO ARRIGHI MAY PROVE SUCCESSFUL AS VIRTUALLY ALL POLITICAL OBSERVERS EXPECT HIM TO DEPART SCENE SHORTLY. THE CHECK ISSUE, HOWEVER, IS PROVING TO BE A TENACIOUS AND EMBARRASSING ISSUE WHICH WILL NOT GO AWAY.
MONTLLOR

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